

flat and smooth interior surfaces for receiving and conformably engaging the elongate beam, each said channel comprising a one-piece fixedly shaped construction, said receptacles comprising respective tubular components, each said recess including a pair of substantially aligned notches, each of which respectively fixedly interengages said base and a first side wall of said channel.

Claims 25, 26 and 27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (previously presented): The system of claim 23 in which said channel is structurally distinct from said receptacles and said recesses, said channel being interengaged with said receptacles respectively through said recesses.

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the examiner's most recent re-examination of the application. Re-examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendment and the following remarks.

The examiner has objected to claims 16 and 17 and requested that the term –respectively– be inserted into each claim. This change has been made in claim 17 as well as in claim 23, which incorporates each of the features and elements of prior claim 16. Claim 24 has also been amended in a similar manner.

The examiner has rejected claims 14, 15, 18-21, 23, 24 and 28 under U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor. The examiner has objected to claims 16 and 17 and indicated that those claims will be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 23 to incorporate

each of the features and limitations of prior claims 23 and 16 as well as intervening claim 14. Claim 24 has been similarly amended to include each of the limitations of claim 14 as well as the additional requirement that at least one of the recesses includes a pair of substantially aligned notches, each of which fixedly interengages the base and the first side wall of the channel. In view of the foregoing amendment, applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Each of the examiners objections or rejections has been addressed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Applicant is submitting herewith a Petition for Extension of Time within the First Month along with a check for the extension fee (\$55).

If a telephone conference with applicant's attorney would help to advance the prosecution of this application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (239) 481-0900.

Date: *April 5, 2004*

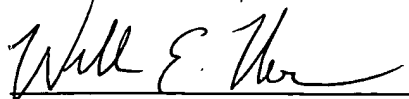
Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 5th day of April, 2004.



William E. Noonan